

Isaiah 42:1-9

A Life of Meekness and Righteousness

Text: Isaiah 42

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Isaiah declared that the Messiah's life would be one of meekness and righteousness...

I. THE BACKGROUND

- A. The name Isaiah means, "Jehovah is salvation," "salvation is of Jehovah," or "Jehovah saves."
- B. Chapters 1 - 39 of Isaiah detail judgment from God on the nations of the world, including Israel and Judah.
- C. Chapters 40 - 66 record comfort from God in promises of Israel's return and the coming of the Messiah.
- D. Chapters 40 - 41 show that this comfort is sure because it is based upon the nature, power, and infinite wisdom and knowledge of God.
- E. Chapter 42 describes the two servants of God - the Messiah (God's ideal Servant) and Israel (God's blind and deaf servant).
 1. The idea of Israel as God's servant was introduced in Isaiah 41:8.
 2. God had chosen them, provided for them, and could do great things through them.
 3. As God's servant, they should have devoted themselves to doing His will and shining His light into the world.
 4. Instead, they failed Him by willfully becoming deaf and blind (42:18-25). {*Note the difference between the blindness of verse 16 and that of verse 20.*}
 5. They were to be God's messengers but failed to heed the message themselves!
- F. In contrast with Israel is the Messiah - the true, ideal Servant of God.

II. THE LIFE OF GOD'S SERVANT

(ISAIAH 42:1-9)

- A. An important note about Cyrus
 1. God had foretold that Cyrus would be a temporary "savior" of Israel (41:1-4).
 2. In fact, this prophecy was evidence of God's power and the vanity of idolatry.
 3. As important as Cyrus was for Israel's return from captivity (44:28; 45:1), he was only a foreshadowing of the true Savior - Jesus, the Messiah.
- B. The Servant would be chosen and sustained by God (vs. 1).
- C. He would be calm, rational, and compassionate in His teaching (vs. 2-3).
- D. He would not fail in His purpose of bringing justice through His law (vs. 4).

Prophecy of Jesus

- E. His law and covenant would be for all – both Jew and Gentile (vs. 5-7).
- F. God keeps His promises and fulfills His prophecies; thus, there is no other God and He alone is worthy of worship!

III. THE LIFE OF THE MESSIAH (MATTHEW 12:15-21)

- A. Clearly, this passage cannot be limited to the work of Cyrus.
- B. Instead, it is a prophecy of Jesus, quoted in Matthew 12, and fulfilled in His life.
- C. Jesus fulfilled His role as the Servant of God.
 - 1. He left Heaven and came to Earth in complete submission to the will of the Father (Philippians 2:5-8).
 - 2. He came as a servant of God and a servant of man (Mark 10:42-45).
- D. As He served the Father, God would support and sustain Him (John 16:32).
- E. He was chosen by God for this responsibility (John 6:27; 1 Peter 2:4-6).
- F. Because of His faithfulness, God delighted in Him (Matthew 3:17).
- G. God fully empowered Him to carry out the work of bringing justice to all nations, including the Gentiles (John 3:34; Acts 10:38; 26:17-18).
- H. His method of teaching was calm and rational.
 - 1. Homer Hailey wrote: “The Servant will reject sensationalism, boisterous harangue, rabble-rousing, and noisy demonstrations in the streets.”
 - 2. He preached the Truth simply, yet powerfully, and allowed men to choose whether to accept or reject it.
- I. He did not reject the bruised, downtrodden, or weak.
 - 1. A bruised reed is easily broken, but Jesus sought to mend and heal.
 - 2. A smoking flax is easily extinguished, but Jesus nurtured the flame.
 - 3. He would bring justice by preaching and living the Truth.
- J. He did not fail in His purpose of bringing justice through His law.
- K. His strength came from the Almighty God, Creator of the world – Jehovah, the great “I Am.”
- L. It was God who called His Servant; it was God who sustained Him (cf. John 8:28-29).
- M. He brought salvation to both Jew and Gentile.
 - 1. As a covenant to the people, He appealed to the Jews (cf. Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24; 13:20; Matthew 26:28).
 - 2. As a light, He appealed to the Gentiles (cf. Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47; 26:23).
- N. His salvation is spiritual deliverance from blindness, darkness, and prison.
- O. No other being or false god deserves the praise that belongs to Jehovah, for none can do what He has done.
 - 1. He accurately predicted the future of His people and of the Messiah.
 - 2. But, more than that, He brought about the course of history that resulted in the salvation of the world through the sacrifice of His Son.
- P. How dare any man praise or serve a god of his own creation!
- Q. There is no God but Jehovah!